

# FACT SHEET



**Shaw Avenue Dump Site  
Charles City, Iowa**

**January 2001**

## INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has decided to take no additional action to address the ground water at the Shaw Avenue Dump Superfund site. The site is located on the southeastern edge of Charles City, Iowa, near the intersection of Shaw Avenue and Clark Street. Although contaminants remain in the ground water at the site, it is extremely unlikely that anyone would come into contact with the ground water at the site now, or in the future. A number of controls are in place to ensure that no one is exposed to the ground water.

## SELECTED DECISION

The decision to take no additional action to address ground water at the site was based on the following:

- The source of the contamination has been removed.
- Any remaining ground water contamination that exceeds drinking water standards is confined to the site.
- No one is being exposed to the hazardous contaminants.
- Controls are in place to prevent anyone from coming into contact with the contamination.

The following controls have been placed on the site to prevent exposure to the contaminated ground water:

- A restrictive covenant that prohibits the installation of wells at the site.
- The site has been placed on the registry of abandoned or uncontrolled disposal sites. This requires that the owner or operator of the site obtain written approval from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) before substantially changing the manner in which the site is used. IDNR has stated that it would not grant approval for such a change in the use of the site.

- The site is in the 100-year flood plain and the Charles City Flood Plains Management Ordinance forbids the construction of residential buildings in the area of a flood plain.

EPA has determined that these actions are sufficient to protect human health and the environment. Ground water at the site will continue to be sampled regularly. The site will be evaluated every five years to ensure that human health and the environment remain protected.

## **SITE BACKGROUND**

The Shaw Avenue Dump site covers 24 acres, part of which is on the Cedar River flood plain. The city of Charles City owns the site and currently uses it for disposal of liming sludge from the Charles City Waste Water Treatment Plant. In the past, the city operated a municipal dump at the site. From 1949 to 1953, the dump accepted chemical waste, contaminated with arsenic and other organic compounds, from Salsbury Laboratories, a veterinary pharmaceutical company. Salsbury Laboratories also discharged liquid wastes to the Charles City Waste Water Treatment Plant. Sludges from the waste water treatment plant were also disposed of at the site from 1949 to 1964. In July 1987, the site was added to the National Priorities List, a list of the nation's highest priority sites eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program.

A remedial investigation to identify the nature and extent of contamination was initiated at the site in July 1988. Volatile organic compounds and heavy metals, including vinyl chloride, benzene, 1,1,2-trichloroethane and arsenic were found in the soil and ground water. Areas of the dump containing pharmaceutical waste highly concentrated with arsenic were also identified.

In 1992, EPA entered into an agreement with the city of Charles City and Solvay Animal Health, Inc., the successor to Salsbury Laboratories, Inc., to excavate and dispose of chemical waste and contaminated soil. Excavating the chemical waste and contaminated soil removed the primary source of the ground water contamination. In addition, the agreement required regular sampling of the ground water monitoring wells at the site and placed restrictive covenants on the site property that prohibit installation of ground water wells on the property.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Site-related documents are available for public review at the Charles City Public Library, 106 Milwaukee Mall, Charles City, Iowa, and at EPA Region 7. If you have questions or need additional information about this site, please contact:

Diane Huffman, Community Involvement Coordinator  
Office of External Programs, EPA Region 7  
901 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
Telephone: 1-913-551-7003 or Toll-free 1-800-223-0425  
Fax: 1-913-551-7066  
E-mail: [huffman.diane@epa.gov](mailto:huffman.diane@epa.gov)